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City Council Finalizes Strict New Water Conservation Measures

Penalties Take Effect Next Month

Beverly Hills, CA –The Beverly Hills City Council at the May 5 meeting finalized a modified version of Stage D in the City's emergency water conservation program in order to meet the state-mandated goal of a 36% reduction in water use. The new restrictions on water use go into effect next month and will include penalties for not reducing water consumption by 30% and for violations of outdoor watering restrictions.

"Our most important next step is to ensure that we communicate with and educate our residents and businesses," said Mayor Julian Gold. "I am confident that, given all the information and options, our residents and businesses will step up and reduce their water use to respond to the drought crisis."

Low water users in the tier 1 category will be exempt from the usage penalties, but not outdoor watering restrictions. Analysis on a permanent tiered rate structure will be completed over the coming months to ensure compliance with state law.

In addition, the City Council asked staff to finalize requirements for pools and spas such that the provisions of Stage D conservation program and health and safety considerations are met. The strict new conservation measures were imposed in response to the severe state-wide drought and a projected 15% cutback in water delivery from the Metropolitan Water District, which supplies 90% of the City's water.

The City will launch a comprehensive outreach program to educate water customers about the new restrictions and ways they can cut back on their water consumption, particularly outdoor watering. Irrigation of residential landscaping accounts for 60% - 70% of the annual water usage in the City and is where the most savings can be achieved.

The City's new water conservation requirements include:

- Fines will be imposed for violations of the outdoor watering restrictions. Continued excessive use may result in termination of water supply through irrigation water

services and/or restriction of water supply through domestic meters.

- Restrictions on outdoor watering include limiting landscape irrigation to two days per week, prohibiting exterior wash-down of buildings and vehicles, unless it is done on the premises of a commercial facility with reclaimed wastewater or unless the washing is needed for the health and welfare of the public, such as the cleaning of vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
- Water usage from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting or other activities necessary to maintain the public health, safety and welfare.
- Restaurants shall serve water upon request only.
- All public restrooms in the City and private bathrooms in hotels shall notify patrons and employees of water conservation goals.
- Plumbing and irrigation leaks shall be repaired as soon as possible.

The City of Beverly Hills has an automated leak detection program and will continue to notify residents if a leak is identified on a property. For information on rebates and how to track your water consumption online, go to www.beverlyhills.org/waterconservation. Also, for tips on how to conserve water, customers can visit MWD's website at www.bewaterwise.com.

The Metropolitan Water District is offering rebates for installing weather-based irrigation controllers, rotating sprinkler nozzles, soil moisture sensors and for replacing grass with drought-tolerant plants. In addition, rebates are also offered for purchasing high-efficiency clothes washing machines and toilets.

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